

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 SAJ-01 SSM-03

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /090 W

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R 071541Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2839

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION UN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0286

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, PLO

SUBJECT: SOVIET MFA OFFICIAL ON PALESTINIANS

REF: 76 MOSCOW 20107

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SOVIET MFA OFFICIAL EMPHASIZES IMPORTANCE OF CAIRO PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL (PNC) MEETING AND SPECULATES THAT RESULT MAY BE "UNOFFICIAL" POLITICAL MOVEMENT ON SUCH ISSUES AS ESTABLISHMENT OF GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE DEFINITION OF BOUNDARIES OF FUTURE PALESTINIAN STATE AND PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA MEPC. OFFICIAL ADDS HOWEVER, THAT HE DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY FORMAL CHANGE IN
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PALESTINIAN CHARTER. ON SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA, OFFICIAL SUGGESTS PALESTINIANS NEED NOT NECESSARILY BE REPRESENTED IN FIRST STAGE OF TWO-STAGE CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF CALLED JAN 6 ON MFA N.E. COUNTRIES DEPT. FIRST SECRETARY IGOR' GEORGIYEVICH IVASHCHENKO (JORDAN

AND THE PALESTINIANS). IVASHCHENKO EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE ON PNC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR CAIRO AND SAID HE FORESAW PALESTINIANS AT PNC TAKING MODERATE, DEFINITE, BUT STILL "UNOFFICIAL," POLITICAL DECISIONS ON SUCH KEY ISSUES AS ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE, DEFINITION OF BOUNDARIES OF FUTURE PALESTINIAN STATE, AND PARTICIPATION OF PALESTINIANS IN GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, FORESEE ANY FORMAL CHANGE IN PALESTINE NATIONAL CHARTER. WHILE HE THOUGHT ARAFAT WAS A SUFFICIENTLY ACCOMPLISHED POLITICIAN TO MANEUVER THROUGH PROBLEMS PRESENTED BY REJECTION FRONT AND THOSE SYMPATHETIC TOWARD IT, HE DID NOT BELIEVE ARAFAT'S POSITION WAS SUFFICIENTLY STRONG TO ENABLE HIM TO CHANGE THE CHARTER OR TO HAVE THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICY CHANGES REFLECTED IN OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS.

3. IVASHCHENKO WAS CONCERNED OVER THE ADDED ELEMENT OF THE ISRAELI SPRING ELECTIONS, SINCE THIS WOULD MAKE MORE DIFFICULT A POSITIVE ISRAELI RESPONSE TO ANY MODERATE GESTURE ON THE PART OF THE PALESTINIANS. HE FELT THAT ARAFAT WOULD BE IN AN EXPOSED AND MOMENTARILY WEAKENED POSITION WITHIN THE PALESTINAIN MOVEMENT AFTER PUSHING FOR A MORE DEFINITE AND MODERATE POLICY AND IF THE U.S. AND ISRAEL DID NOT RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THESE POLICY CHANGES, THE EXTREMEISTS WITHIN THE PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT WOULD BE ENCOURAGED, WITH BAD RESULTS FOR THE GENERAL SITUATION AND FOR ARAFAT PERSONALLY. IN THIS REGARD, HE CONCLUDED THAT MUCH DEPENDED ON THE U.S.
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TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING BY PRODDING THE ISRAELIS TO SAY AND DO THE RIGHT THING DESPITE THE PRESSURE OF ISRAELI INTERNAL POLITICS.

4. ON THE ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, IVASHCHENKO SAID THAT WHILE THE PALESTINIANS HAD TO PARTICIPATE, THEY PERHAPS NEED NOT BE PRESENT AT THE FIRST ATAGE OF A TWO-STAGE CONFERENCE. WHEN QUESTIONED, IVASHCHENKO SAID ONLY THAT ISSUE WAS OPEN AND WAS UP TO ARABS AND PALESTINIANS TO DECIDE. IN ANY CASE, HE ADDED, REAL ISSUE WAS UNREALISTIC ATTITUDE OF ISRAELIS AND MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON DEGREE OF PRESSURE WHICH NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION COULD AND WOULD EXERT ON ISRAELI OVER THIS MATTER. IVASHCHENKO VOLUNTEERED HIS "UNDERSTANDING" OF U.S. DOMESTIC CONSTRAINTS IN THIS REGARD DUE TO IMPORTANCE OF "ZIONIST LOBBY" IN U.S.

5. IVASHCHENKO DESCRIBED ARAFAT VISITS TO BELGRADE AND BUCHAREST AS ROUTINE, SAID HE DID NOT KNOW OF ANY PLANS

FOR ARAFAT VISIT TO MOSCOW, BUT ADMITTED THAT HE MIGHT
NOT POSSESS FULL KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH PLANS.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE HIS BACKPEDALING ON ISSUE OF
PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN FIRST STAGE OF TWO STAGE
MEPC, IVASHCHENKO SEEMED MORE FLEXIBLE THAN WAS THE
CHIEF OF HIS DEPARTMENT SYTENKO IN CONVERSATION WITH
CHARGE DEC 23 (REFTEL).
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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